YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK

8
YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK

YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK

YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK

YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK

YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK

YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK

YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK

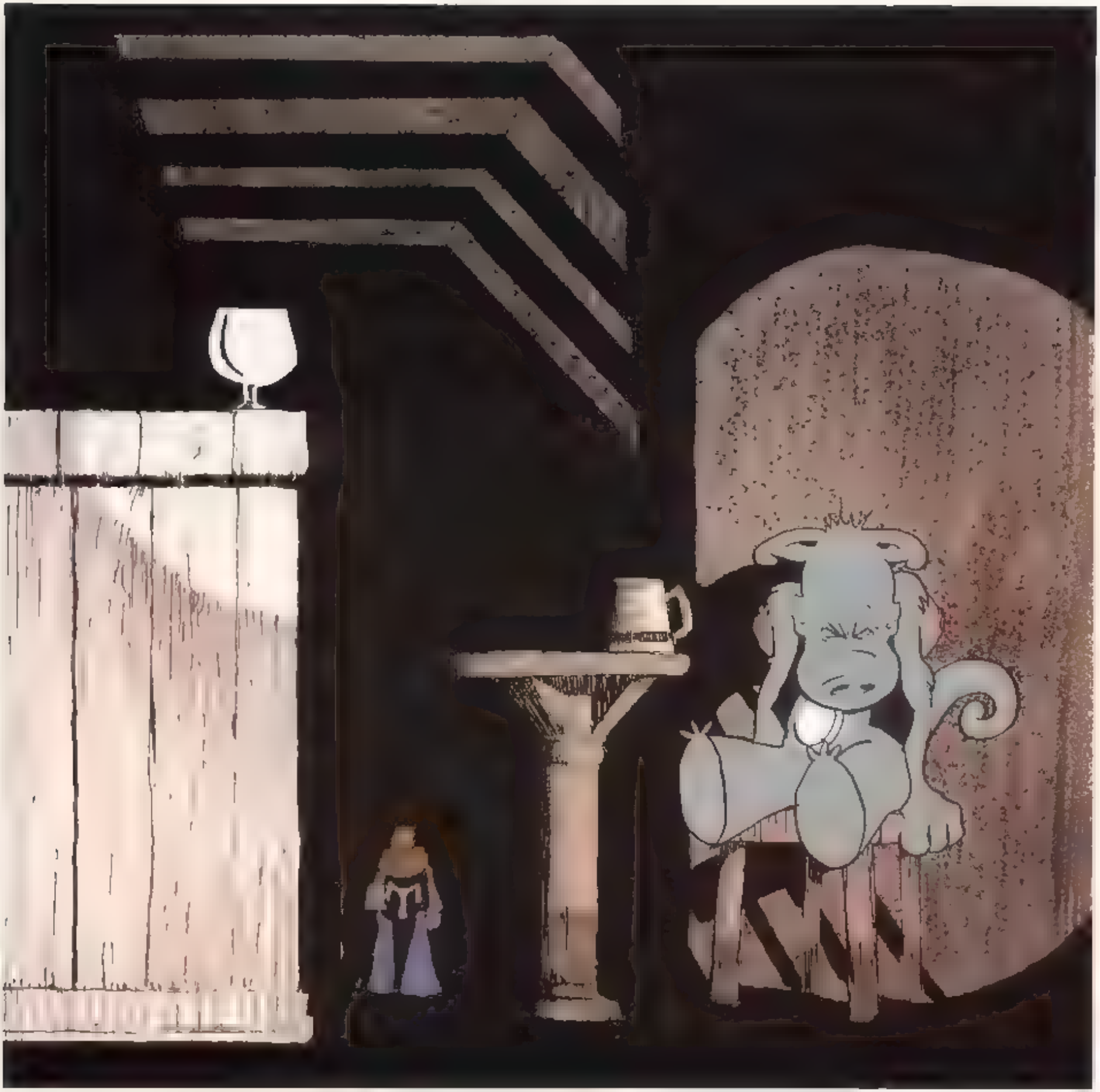
YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK
PIG!

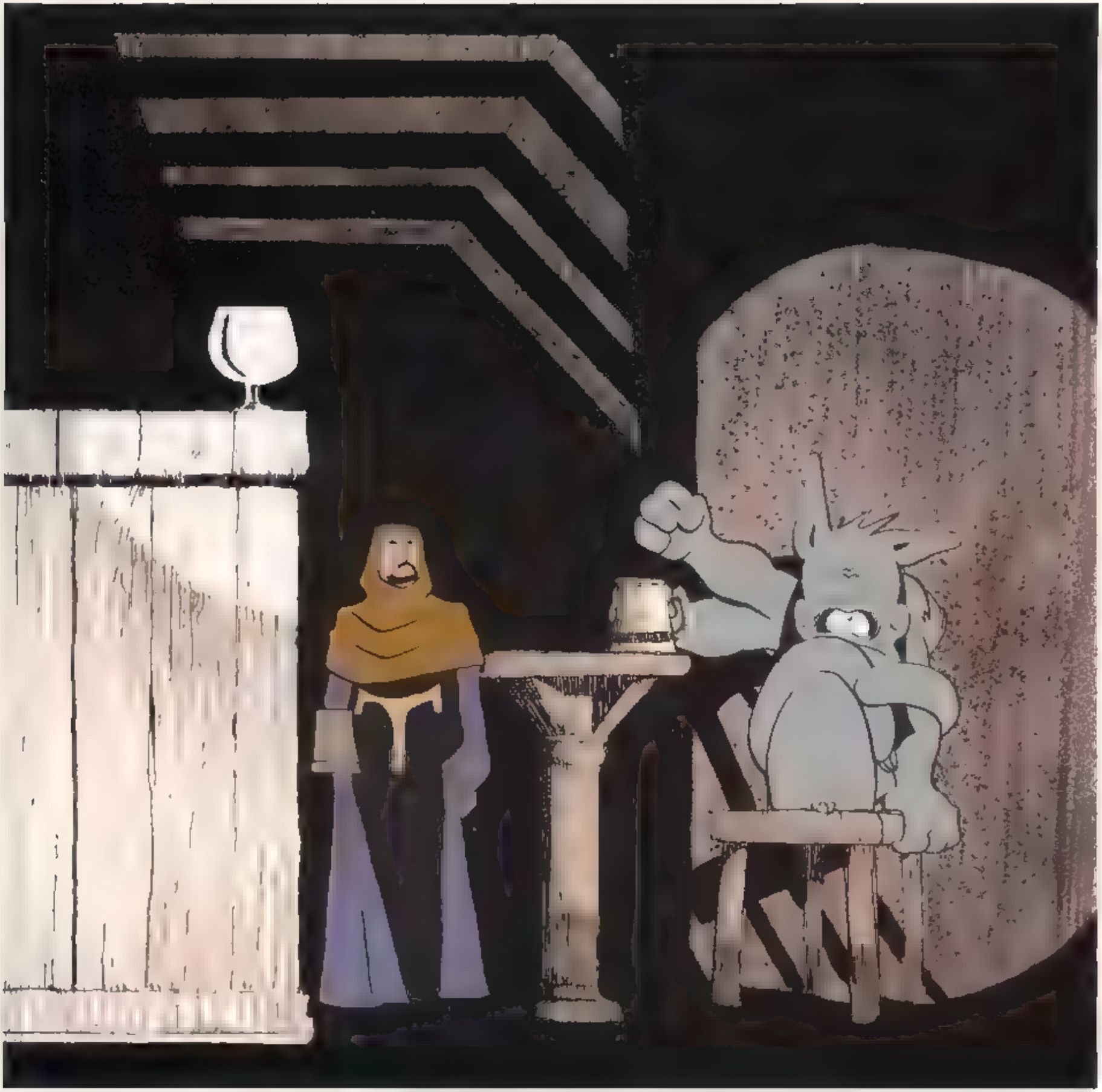
YE BOOKE
OF
YE
MAGIK

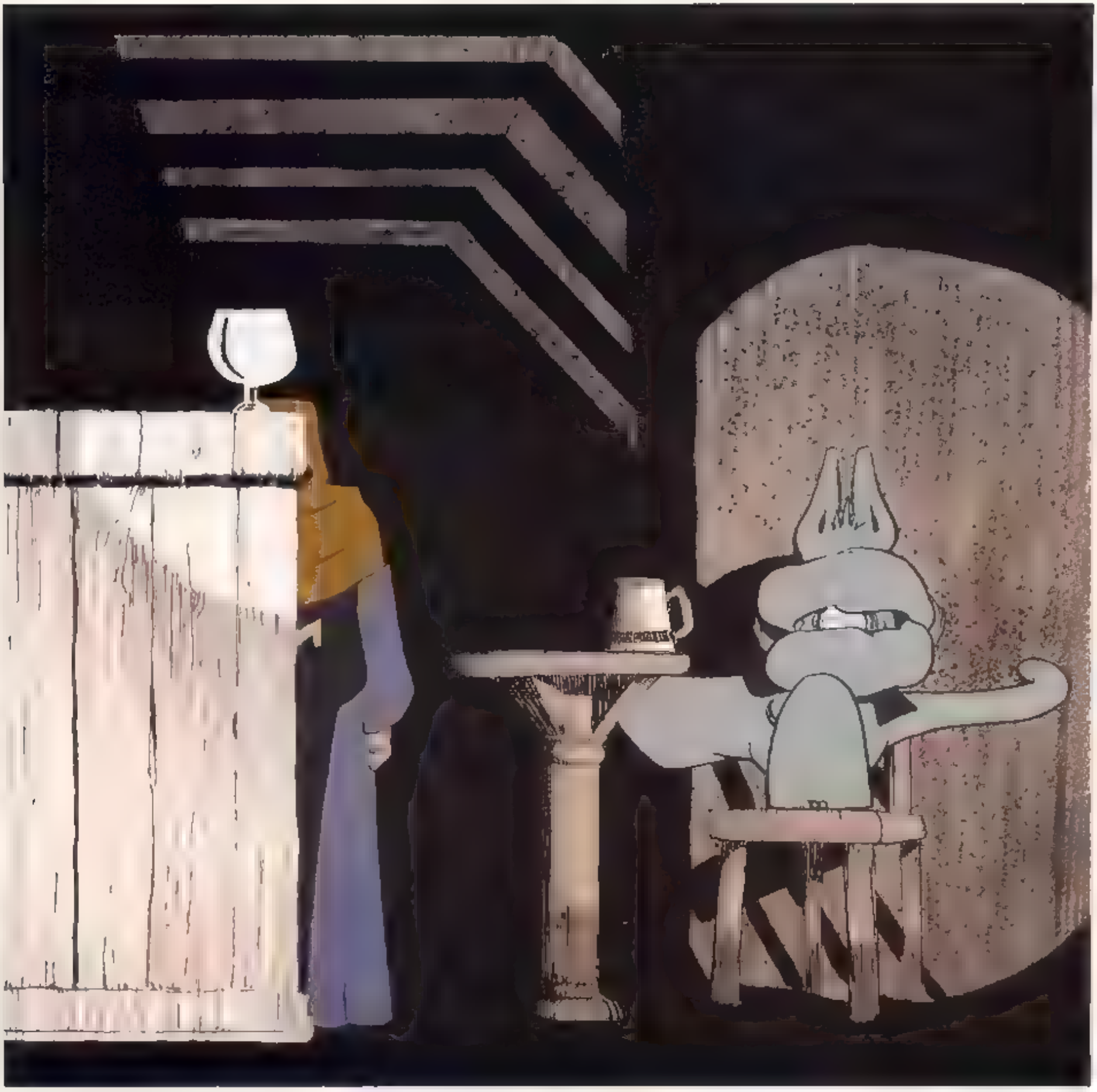
МАБІК

Ye
MAGIK

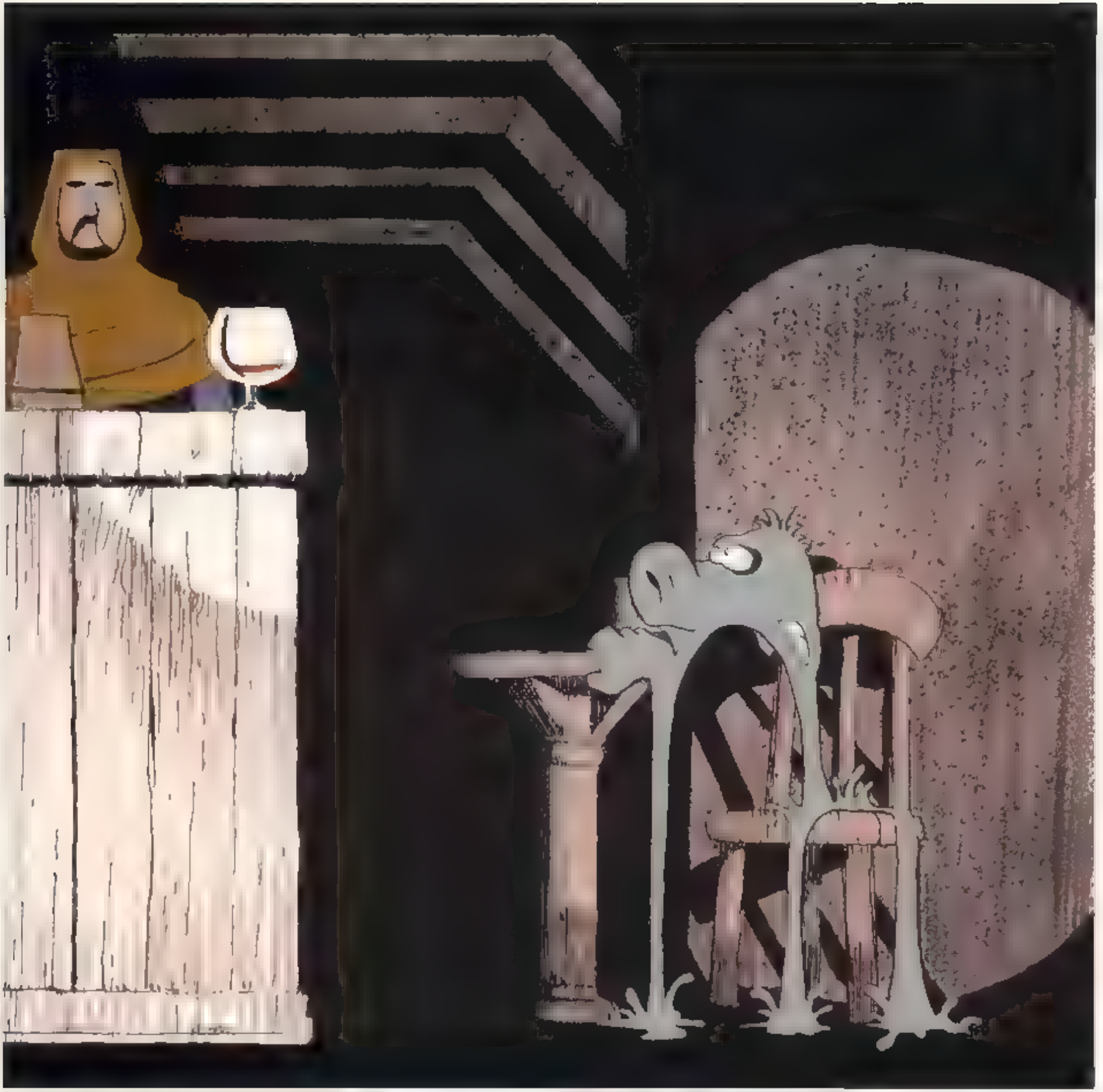
the animated cerebus







STIT



WRITING PICTURES, DRAWING WORDS

It was last August when after a tentative offer by an animation studio to look at any proposals for a Cerebus animated film that I finally sat down and tried to picture what a Cerebus animated film would be like.

Actually like a number of people I have talked to I at first thought that High Society would make a good feature length animated film. Of course that was before Elrod and Jaka and Lord Julius and the Cootie started popping up... either had to abandon the idea of doing it as a film or try to talk so... printing up programs to hand out at the box office to explain wh... was.

It was at this point that I decided the best course of action would be to write a story that took place before issue #1 which would avoid complicated introductions for the major characters or shudder) new versions of their first appearance for the sake of filmic continuity (double shudder).

Well I wandered around for a few weeks after that complimenting myself on being such a clever chap. Yes sir that was the best way to go. It would all take place before issue #1. From there I tried to start on a treatment. A quick five or six paragraphs that would have every producer of animation who read it rolling in the aisles (or behind his desk). Something witty and at the same time poignant. Hilarious but thought-provoking. It took me a couple of weeks to figure out that those five or six paragraphs don't exist which returned me to square one.

Then I thought of the idea of producing a portfolio of short vignettes that would appear in the film. Just quick little stories that would give people a clearer idea of what kind of a film it was I intended to make some day. I finally had a goal that was clear enough that I could sit down and give it a try.

So there I sat tapping a pencil on the edge of the dining room table trying to do anything I absolutely hate trying to do: writing pictures.

A WELL-EQUIPPED BAR

Please don't read this until you've looked at the story... not that anyone would but who knows? Somewhere out there's some disturbed individual (a lot of them are Cerebus fans you know) who upon opening this portfolio decided to read the fine print before he looked at the pictures. Well whoever you are this is your last warning. Don't read this until you look at the plates. Onward.

I started sifting through the Earth-Pig's past (he does have one I just haven't spilled the cat ash over the bean bag yet) going over locations and incidents. Naturally the one that came up the most frequently was the bar the tavern a corner table.

I had heard a joke some years ago (like when I was ten) about two fellows having a bet that no one in the bar would dare drink the contents of the spittoon nearby. There is an elaborate description of each patron of the bar having a try. So and so tries and he barely lifts it up before he gets sick. So and so tries it etc. Finally one guy drinks it all down. And one of the first two fellows says that's amazing. How can you do that? The answer is the punch line and for the life of me I can't remember it. But it was this story that my mind strayed to as it is wont to do when forced to write pictures). I had this over-riding feeling that I... I remember the punchline I would have the idea vignette. Al... wrinkled grey matter this way and that I had a sudden burst of... profound chord that the words drink the contents of a spittoon strike in the human animal. I did a quick sketch of the first frames then jotted... ples like (2) looks left (3) looks right (4) tiptoeing. The next day I went in and drew it. One d...

ADD ONE MUMMIFIED BAT

It was Deni who suggested the idea for this one. D... when I'm chewing the drapes and the carpet and threa... drink... the time he was a magician's apprentice? Everyone wants to know about that. She was right so I told her it was impossible and that I had a ready thought of that and why didn't she go somewhere and publish something.

Fortunately I had a mouthful of broadloom so it didn't come out clear enough for her to take offense.

I thought about it tapping my pencil on the dining room table picking broadloom fibres out of my teeth. I always pictured Magus Doran's stud... one that Gene Day had drawn years ago for an animation sample. The picture was dominated by a bubbling cauldron while the over-layed cells were of a... and I always wondered what would have come out of that cauldron. I decided it w...

This story featured the youngest Cerebus I had drawn to date. Looks pret...

HIS FIRST SWORD

I went through a number of ideas before I came up with this one again. Not...

I had recently seen a Fleischer Popeye cartoon that I recalled quite v... from days as a wee lad when I would watch an hour of Popeye ev... morning. All the action took place in a blacksmith shop as Popeye and Bl... competed in shoeing horses. So Bluto was very much on my mind as an archetypal Blacksmith as I contemplated young Cerebus eagerly awaiting the completion of his first sword. It's a sobering something of a comment on the... tality of those enamoured of articles of destruction. But probably it is just another incident in the young earth pig's life.

The cover was originally going to feature His Sixth Birthday but I decided y... ready for **that** young aardvark yet. Maybe in the next portfol...

All of these vignettes happen before the opening credits in that grand and ... the back ...

My short ... pretty hazy at this point but one thing's for sure. It won't have a single heart warming moment in it.

Take that Wa...

Dave Sim February 18 198...
Kitchener Ontar...

Mr. Sim makes his living drawing funny books and has lived in Kitchener for twenty-four of his twenty-six years. He lives with his wife Mrs. Sim and a cat named ...